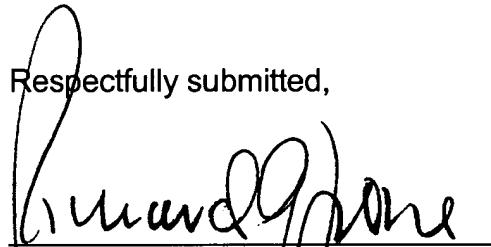


This application is related to, and claims priority from the following international applications: PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/03085 designating the United States, filed May 12, 2000, which was not published in English; Japan application 11/131707, filed May 12, 1999; Japan application 11/131410 filed, May 12, 1999; Japan application 11/271821, filed September 27, 1999; Japan application 11/315870, filed November 5, 1999; Japan application 11/322786, filed November 12, 1999; Japan application 2000/7787, filed January 17, 2000; Japan application 2000/38780 filed February 16, 2000; Japan application 2000/38779, filed February 16, 2000 and Japan application 2000/38778, filed February 16, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard G. Lione
Registration No. 19,795
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200